Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
Tennessee	
COUNTY:	
Coffee	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ /
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

		(m. 11 ) :	4 . 41 4		,	ENTRY NUMBE	R	DATE		
	(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)					FEB 20	1973		]	
	1.	NAME	*							
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0		⊠ Site	☐ Private	☐ In Pro	cess	☐ Unoccupied	Restr			
_		☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being	Considered	X Preservation wo		stricted		
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Z	4.	OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME:								=
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	6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS							ш	1	
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		Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee						1	77	FOR NPS USE
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DESCRIPTION	T			(Chec	k One)		
CONDITION	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	X Fair		eriorated	Ruins	☐ Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check O	ne)			(Che	eck One)
ESCRIBE THE P	X Alte		☐ Unaltered			☐ Moved	X Original Site

The site consists of earth and rock embankments enclosing about 50 acres at the end of a natural plateau where the forks of the Duck River converge. The earth and rock walls, which range from 3.6 to just over 6 feet in height were constructed where the bluffs along the forks of the Duck were not precipitous. The east wall along the Little Duck is 1,094 feet long. The west wall runs 1,396 feet along the bluffs of the Duck River proper. The south wall was constructed 2,116 feet from one stream to another. so-called "north" wall is where the east and west walls converge to form an entrance which consists of two pedestal mounds at the ends of the east and west walls and two parallel "entrance" walls which run into the enclosure from the pedestal mounds, the west entrance wall being 214 feet long including 54 feet of a back entrance wall forming a "cul-de-sac." A ditch was located across the entranceway and between the pedestal mounds and parallel The walls have been damaged by earth and stone entrance walls. removal, historic building activities, and erosion, but the above description is considered fairly accurate, being based on several early descriptions and drawings, and on an archaeological excavation carried out by the University of Tennessee Department of Anthropology in 1966.



IGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One of More as	Appropriate)		
🔯 Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☐ 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applica	ble and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
🏝 Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	☐ Invention → · · · · · ·	- 5 Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	-
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Stone Fort is one of the finest examples of a prehistoric enclosure site in the Southeastern United States. It is also the only site of its kind in North America that has been extensively excavated and described in the recent literature. Although early interest in the site was stimulated by the idea that this structure was built by pre-Columbian European explorers (e.g. Norse, Welsh), excavation by the University of Tennessee demonstrated that the details of construction are very similar to those found in the Hopewell enclosure sites of Ohio, and the C-14 dates from the walls ranging between A.D. 30 and 430 confirm its construction during the Middle Woodland period by Indians who had cultural ties to the Hopewell culture of the Ohio Valley. The function of this and similar sites is still in question, but future excavation here could solve this problem. Some of the walls have been partially destroyed by historic depredations, but the 1966 excavation at this site and future field work should provide for one of the best restorations of this type of site in the eastern United States.

The approximately 50-acre site is now part of the Old Stone Fort State Park, comprising some 675 acres, developed by the Department of Conservation of the State of Tennessee.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES							
Cox, P.E., "Preliminary Report of Exploration at Old Stone Fort, Manchester, Tennessee." <u>Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science</u> , Vol. 4, No. 1, 1929.							
	949.						
Faulkner, Charles H., The Excavation and Intern	notat	ion of the Old Stone Fort, Coffee					
<u>county</u> , <u>rennessee</u> . Tenne	ssee	Department of Conservation Report					
for 1967.		•					
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA							
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPER	3/ * RTY:	50					
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTI	ES OVER	LAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES					
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY					
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY RECEIVED					
STATE:	CODE						
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY REGISTER COD					
, and		REGISTER .					
11. FORM PREPARED BY		- Variation					
Charles H. Faulkner, Associa	ate P	rofessor of Anthropology					
ORGANIZATION		DATE					
Department of Anthropology		11/1/72					
South Stadium Hall, Universi	ity of	Tennessee					
CITY OR TOWN:	<u></u>	STATE COD					
Knoxville		Tennessee 4					
12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION		NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION					
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Publ		I hereby certify that this property is included in the					
89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inc	1	National Register.					
in the National Register and certify that it has	s been	O					
evaluated according to the criteria and proceds	ures set	(Colverthallthe					
forth by the National Park Service. The recom- level of significance of this nomination is:	mended	Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation					
National State K Local							
mini	01	Date $\frac{2}{20/73}$					
Name Made Man		ATTEST:					
Executive Director		1 /1 // <del>L</del>					
Title Executive Director Tennessee Historical Co	mmiss	ion Keeper of The National Register					
Date 11/17/72		Date 2.16.73					

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Coffee	
FOR NPS USE ONL	-Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
CED 2 0 1979	1

#### (Number all entries)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

Faulkner, Charles H. The Old Stone Fort: Exploring an Archaeological Mystery. University of Tennessee Press, 1968.

Jones, Joseph. <u>Explorations of the Aboriginal Remains of Tennessee</u>. Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge 259, 1876.

